

our money [= *about* £3 *now*]. Which knife, when I had it, I was a joyful man j and co'nveyed the same into the foot of my boot, upon the inside of my left leg.

So, within three or four days after I had thus received my knife, I was suddenly called for, and brought before the head Justice, which caused those my irons with the round bolt to be stricken off, and sent to a smith's in the town ; where was a new pair of bolts made ready for me, of another fashion, which had a broad iron bar coming between the shackles : and caused my hands to be made fast with a pair of manacles.

And so was I presently laid in a waggon, all alone, which was there ready to depart towards Mexico ; with sundry other waggons, to the number of sixty, all laden with sundry merchandise which came in the Fleet out of Spain.

The waggon that I was in, was foremost of all the company ; and as we travelled, I, being alone in the waggon, began to try if I could pluck my hands out of the manacles : and, as GOD would ! although It were somewhat painful for me, yet my hands were so slender that I could pull them out, and put them in again ; and ever, as we went, when the waggons made most noise, and the men busiest, I would be working to file off my bolts.

Travelling thus, for the space of eight leagues from Vera Cruz, we came to a high hill ; at the entering up of which, as GOD would ! one of the wheels of the waggon wherein I was, brake ; so that, by that means, the other waggons went afore ; and the waggon man that had charge of me, set an Indian carpenter a work to mend the wheel.

Here, at this place, they baited [*fed*] at a hostelry that a Negro woman keeps ; and, at this place, for that the going up of the hill is very steep for the space of two leagues or better, they do always accustom to take the mules of three or four waggons, and to place them all together for the drawing up of one waggon ; and so to come down again, and fetch up others in that order.

All which came very well to pass. For as it drew towards night, when most of the waggoners were gone to draw up their waggons in this sort, I, being alone, had quickly filed off my bolts. And so espying my time, in the dark of the